



# Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, Washington 98504-2560

## **WSDA to hold public hearing on proposed noxious weed quarantine**

**OLYMPIA** – The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is proposing to add several species of invasive, non-native weeds to the list of plants prohibited from sale or distribution in this state.

The proposal would prohibit the sale or distribution of three wetland and aquatic species -- Australian swamp stonecrop (*Crassula helmsii*), delta arrowhead (*Sagittaria platyphylla*), and water caltrap (*Trapa bicornus*). Water caltrap is also known as devil's pod and bat nut.

Other weeds the proposal adds to the current noxious weed quarantine include: Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), Himalayan knotweed (*Polygonum polystachyum*), giant knotweed (*Polygonum sachalinense*), and Bohemian knotweed (*Polygonum x bohemicum*), a hybrid of Japanese and giant knotweed.

The threat to Washington's waters, wetlands and riparian areas from non-native, aggressive weeds increases each day. Once established, these non-native species can have a serious impact by displacing native species, altering habitat, reducing recreational use of waterways, and impacting agricultural production.

"The risk of entry and spread of these weeds threatens our environmental quality and natural resources," said Tom Wessels, WSDA plant services program manager. "The need to preserve Washington's waters, wetlands and riparian areas is becoming increasingly urgent."

A public hearing on the proposal is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on August 19, at the WSDA office, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia.

Written testimony on the proposal can be sent electronically, by mail or by fax to Henri Gonzales, Washington State Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504, fax: (360) 902-2094 or e-mail: [hgonzales@agr.wa.gov](mailto:hgonzales@agr.wa.gov). Written testimony must be received by August 19. The tentative adoption date of the proposed rule is September 2.

Persons with questions about the proposal may contact Tom Wessels, manager of WSDA plant services program, at (360) 902-1984 or by e-mail at [twessels@agr.wa.gov](mailto:twessels@agr.wa.gov). Persons with questions on

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WSDA's rule-making process may visit the WSDA Web site at [www.agr.wa.gov](http://www.agr.wa.gov), then click respectively on Plants & Insects, Rule-making Activity, and Noxious Weed Quarantine.

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